The Mouse's Tail

RETOLD BY
HELEN PETTES

PICTURED BY
JULIA GREENE

MAKE-BELIEVE SERIES

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Julia Greene

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MAKE-BELIEVE SERIES

CUPPLES & LEON COMPANY
NEW YORK

THE MAKE-BELIEVE SERIES

Whiffet Squirrel
The Yaller Dog
The Mouse's Tail
Miss Patty Peep

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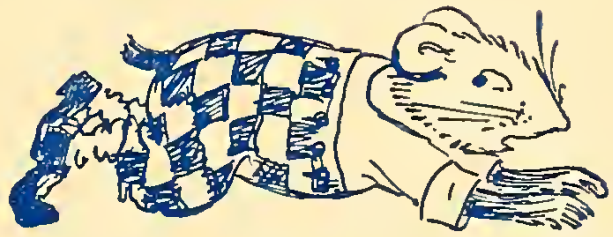
The Mouse's Tail

A little Mouse, so clean and neat,
Would wash his face and scrub his feet
And take the very greatest care
Of his sleek coat of shining hair,
While never, never, would he fail
To brush his beautiful long tail
And titivate his ears.

Now in this house, O big and fat,
Was that sly monster, called "*The Cat*"
But most untidly, she
Forgot to put her comb and brush
In proper place, and, in a rush
One day to find them, she did fail,
And in a rage, bit off the tail,
Of our poor little Mouse!

Said little Mouse, with falling tears,
And fairly shaking with his fears,
"*Please*, Mrs. Cat, give back my tail,
My beautiful long tail!"
Said Mrs. Cat, as smooth as silk,
"Bring me a saucer of warm milk,
And I'll give back your tail,
Your beautiful long tail."



To Cow went Mouse with bright tin pail.
"Please, Mrs. Cow, fill up my pail,
With milk, so Cat will never fail,
To give me back my nice long tail,
My beautiful long tail."

Said Mrs. Cow "First bring me hay,
Then your request I will obey,
And fill your pail with milk."
To Farmer, straight as flying arrow,
Went Mousie with his small wheel-
barrow.

"Please, Mr. Farmer, fill with hay
My barrow, for the Cow did say,
That she for it would give me milk
To give the Cat, as smooth as silk,
So she will give me back my tail,
My beautiful long tail."

Julia Greene

Said Farmer: "My barn boor is locked.
Bring me a key, we'll not be balked,
I'll open straight the door,
And then upon the floor
I'll fill with sweet new hay
Your barrow, fine and gay."
Mouse, with his pocketbook in hand,
Went to the Locksmith,
big and grand.

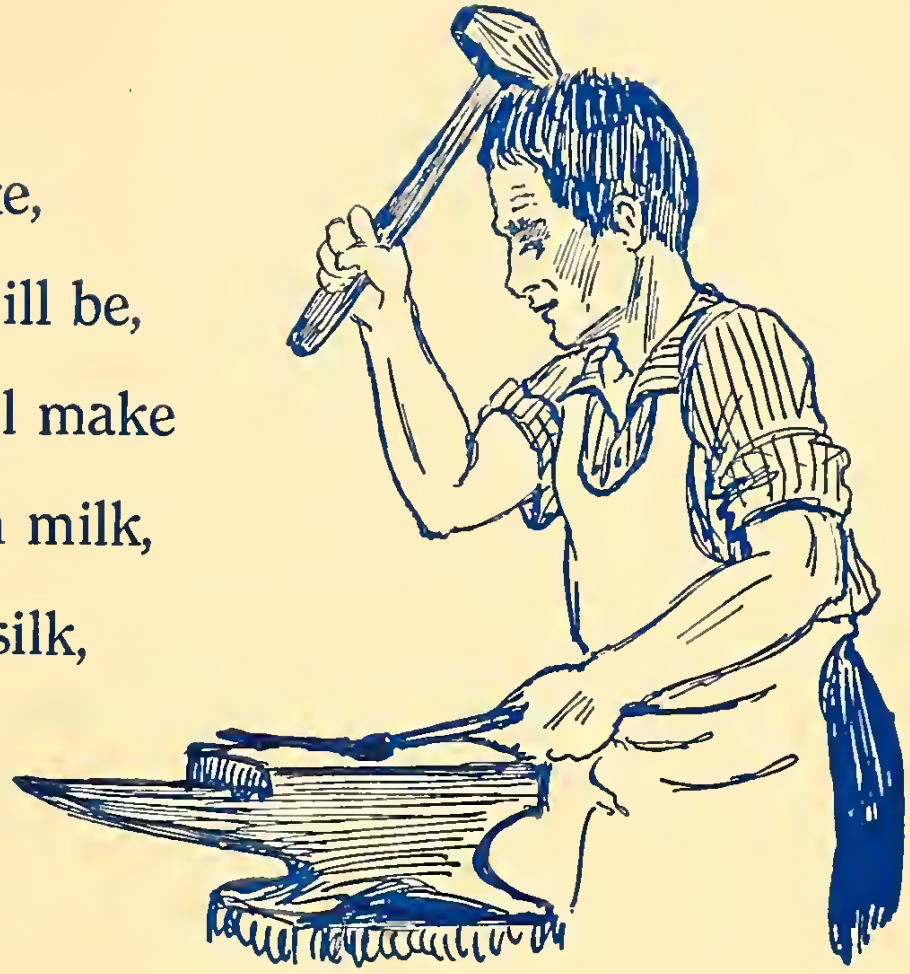
"Please, Mr. Locksmith, bring a key,
And I'll to Farmer give it;
His barn unlocked, he'll fill with hay,
My little barrow, bright and gay.
Then to the Cow, without delay,
I'll bring the hay and give it.
She'll give me milk to give the Cat,
Who'll give me back my tail,
My beautiful long tail."

Julia Gradner

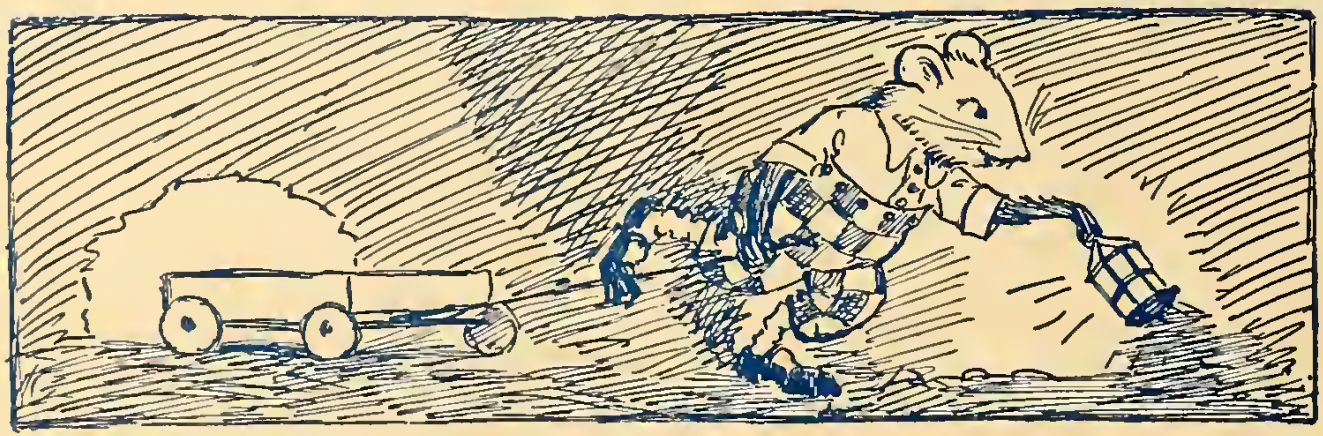
Said Locksmith: "I must have a file
With which to make a key.
Get me file, the key I'll make
With pleasure for your own small sake!"
Down to the ground bowed he.

With satchel on his arm, went Mouse
Down to the brawny Blacksmith's house.
"Please Mr. Blacksmith, make a file
For Locksmith—in a little while
He then can make a key.

The key to Farmer then I'll take,
His barn door soon unlocked will be,
The hay he'll give me, then will make
The Cow to give her nice warm milk,
To coax the Cat, as smooth as silk,
To give me back my tail,
My beautiful long tail.



Said Blacksmith: "I must have some coal
To build a fire to make a file.
Down in the earth through a dark hole
You'll find the Miner digging coal.
He'll give you quite a pile."



Julia Greene

Poor Mouse took now his little cart,
Down in the dark earth, like a dart
He ran to Mr. Miner.
"Please Mr. Miner, give me coal.
How dark it is! Upon my soul,
Your cap lamp is some shiner!

If I the coal to Blacksmith bring,

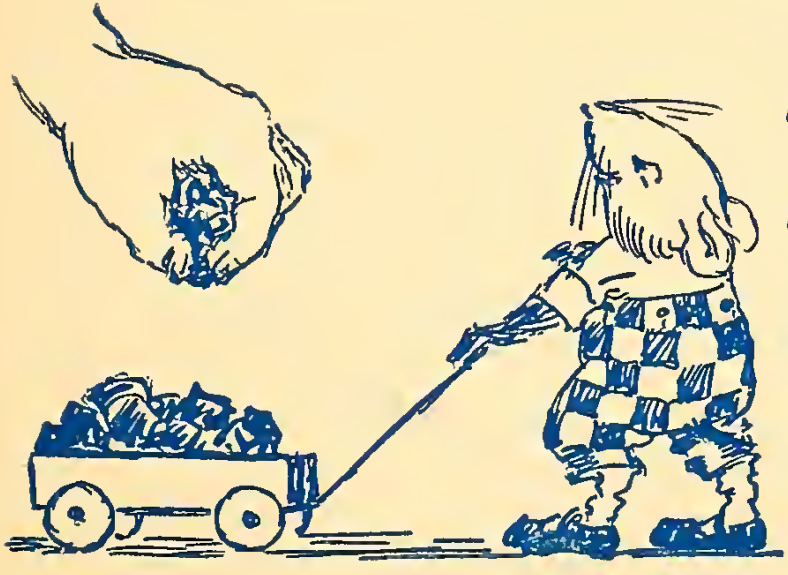
He'll make a file, the cutest thing!

So Locksmith then a key can make,

The barn door open, Farmer'll take

My barrow, fill it up with hay

While I to Cow will blithely say,

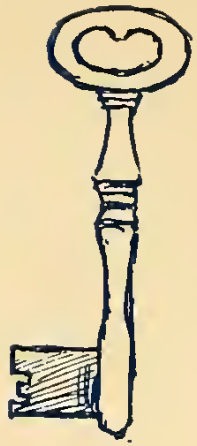


Give me your nice warm milk,

To coax the Cat, as smooth as silk

To give me back my tail,

My beautiful long tail."



The Miner filled his cart with coal.

Mouse wheeled it to his goal.

The Blacksmith made his fire to glow,

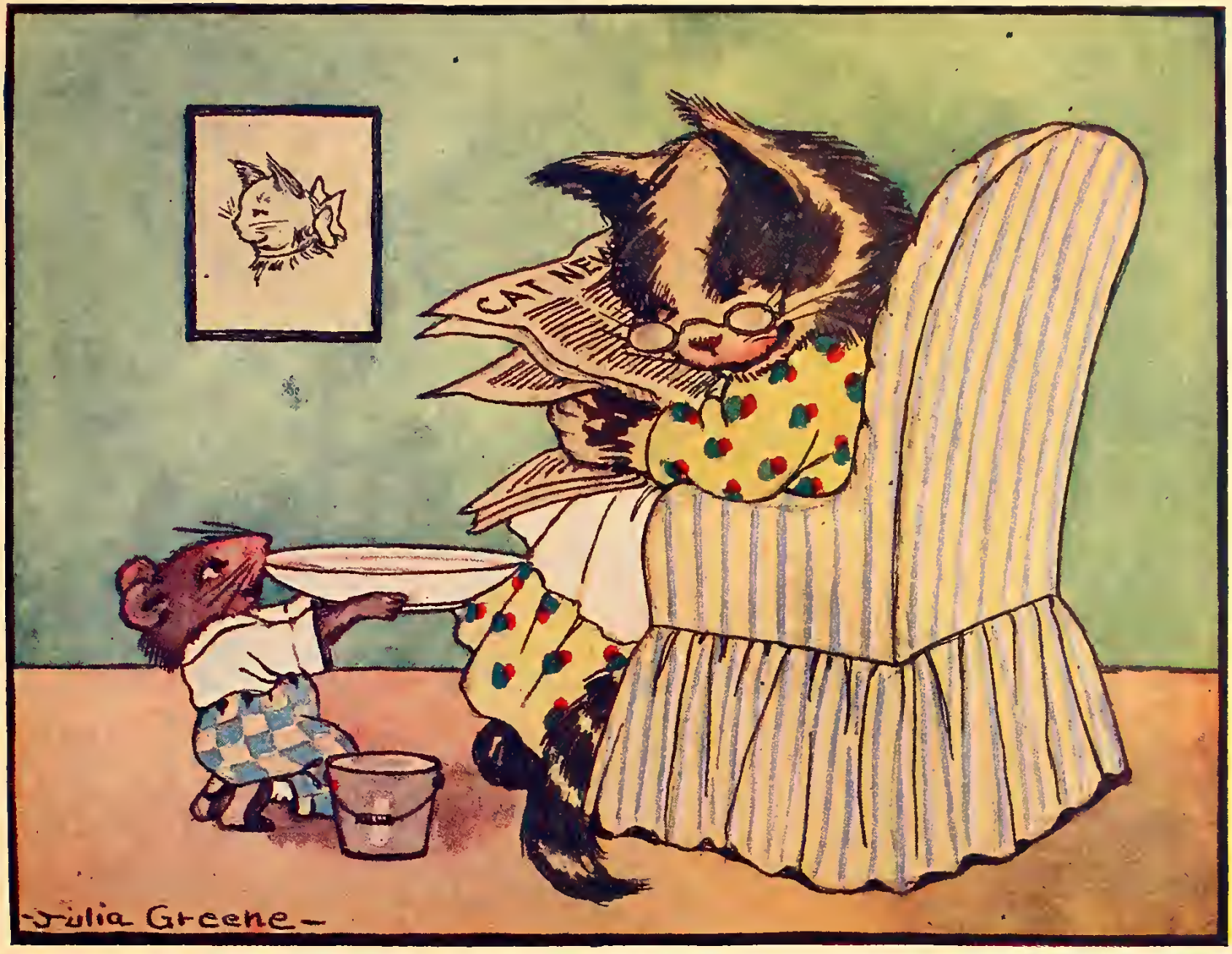
He beat his iron high and low,

And fashioned him a file.

The file then made the Locksmith's key,

The Farmer's barn door opened, he

Did fill the barrow full.


CAT NEWS
-Julia Greene-

The hay he gave, the Cow did eat.

She filled the pail with nice warm milk.

Said Mouse to Cat, as smooth as silk:

"*Now*, give me back my tail

My beautiful long tail!"

Untidy Cat said: "Dearie, me!

Where *ever* did I put it.

And straightaway up and down
the house

She madly then did foot it!

"I *guess-*" when Mouse's tears
she saw,

"*It must be in the upper drawer!*"

The bureau she ransacked.

(I think had she been soundly smacked
When she was but a kitten
She might have lost untidiness,
Her hide, not heart, been smitten.)

Now, here she was in *such* a mess!

The milk, alas! was getting cold,

And Mouse at last began to scold.

Cried Mrs. Cat, "Ha! *here's* the place."

And raced to open closet,

She pulls down boxes on her face

(A bone falls and she gnaws it!)

Said Mouse, "for shame!"

His gathering tears

He tries to keep from falling.

(If Cat had been in Mouse's place

One *sure* had heard *her* squalling!)

Said Cat, "Of *course*, the *second* drawer!"
Alas! the tail's not in it.
"Oh, wait! *Don't* cry! I'll surely find
That tail in just a minute!"
Mouse whistled "Yankee Doodle" now
To keep his courage flying.
Cat hustled 'round, pretended Mouse
Should never *think* of crying!

"Ah! here it is. The very place!

In tissue pink, I wrapped it!"

And from the lower drawer,
her face

All shining glee, she snapped it!

"Hurrah!" she cried. "Take back
your tail!

The cause of all this trouble!"

Mouse snatched his tail, pink-
wrapped, all pale.

He starts to run and double.

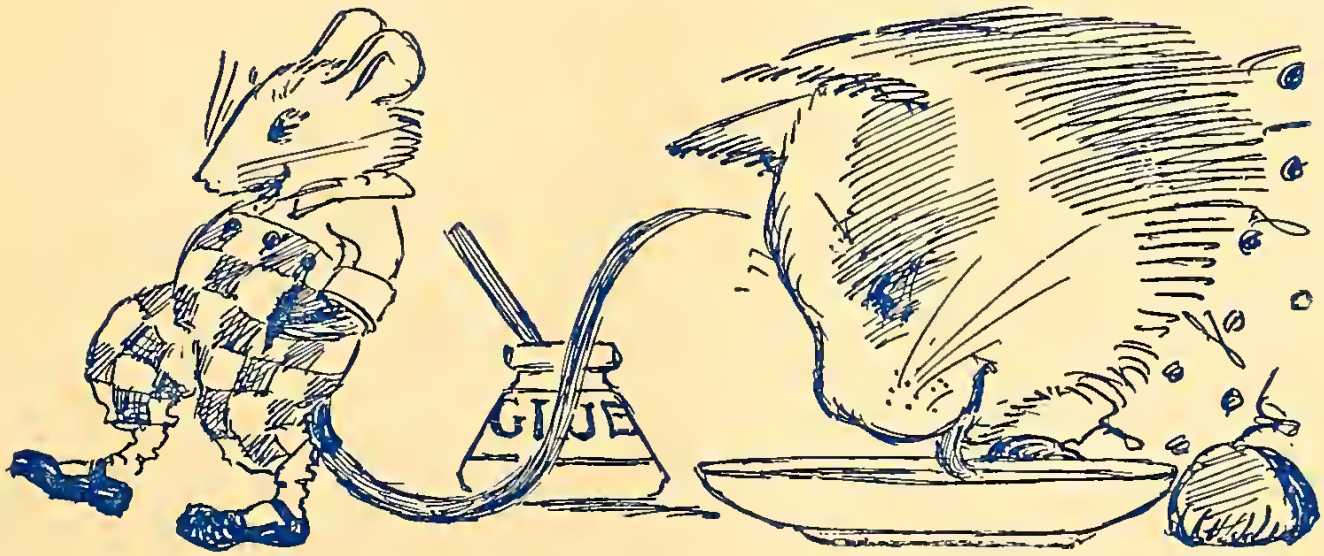
GLUE
Julia Greene

"Ah! *this* way home. I'll get the glue!"

'Tis done! Cat drinks her milk—"*Mi-e'-ou!*"

While Mouse parades his nice long tail,

His beautiful long tail!



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